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25 June 1965

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

T/IR

FROM:

T/IS

SUBJECT:

Seaborne Trade Through North Vietnamese Ports

1. T/IS has noted only 3 North Vietnamese ports being used by seagoing ships. These ports are Haiphong, Hon Gay and Cam Pha. The estimates presented below of cargo volumes through these ports are based on 1964 data, but we believe there have been no appreciable changes in 1965.

2. Seaborne Trade through Haiphong

a. In 1964 North Vietnam's observed seaborne imports (all through Haiphong) totalled 638,000 metric tons. Only 23,000 of these imports were observed on Communist Chinese ships and it is assumed the actual tonnage carried in by Chinese ships is considerably more. I think it is safe to say that seaborne imports through Haiphong in 1964 totalled at least 700,000 metric tons and were probably less than twice that amount.

b. Observed seaborne exports through Haiphong totalled 615,000 metric tons. No information is available on exports on Chinese ships from Haiphong. (Therefore, R/IM estimates that China's imports of North Vietnamese asphalt may total 200,000 tons a year.) I think it safe to say exports through Haiphong in 1964 were at least 800,000 metric tons and less than twice that amount.

c. My best guesstimate is that ⁸million tons of seaborne cargoes passed through Haiphong in each direction in 1964.

3. Seaborne Trade through Hon Gay and Cam Pha

a. Traffic through these ports is not separable by T/IS. We assume imports are negligible. (None have been observed.)

b. Observed coal exports in 1964 totalled 950,000 metric tons. None were observed going to China, but R/FU estimates China takes 250,000 metric tons/yr out of these ports.

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c. Therefore, I estimate these ports have 1.2 - 1.3 million metric tons of seaborne exports each year.



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